

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2762
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5441

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MARR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO SENATE ACTION ON ARMS EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 5414

1. AS PER REFTTEL, CHIEF JUSMMAT CALLED ON GENERAL CELASUN, DEPUTY CHIEF, TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS) IN THE EARLY EVENING OF JULY 26 TO DISCUSS THE PROVISIONS OF THE SENATE ACTION ON THE EMBARGO. CELASUN ADMITTED THAT HE WAS UNSURE OF THE CONTENT OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPOSED 175 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS FINANCING CONSTITUTED A CEILING. CHIEF JUSMMAT ASSURED HIM THAT THE FMS AUTHORIZATION AND THE 50 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE WERE CREDITS AND THAT THE SENATE BILL UNCONDITIONALLY LIFTED THE EMBARGO. CELASUN THEN INQUIRED WHETHER OR NOT TURKEY WAS REQUIRED TO REPORT ON ITS ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND WAS TOLD THAT THIS "CONDITION" WAS LEVIED ON THE PRESIDENT NOT ON TURKEY. CHIEF JUSMMAT NOTED IN ADDITION THAT THE
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PRESIDENT'S REPORTING REQUIREMENT DID NOT SINGLE OUT TURKEY AS THE ONLY OBJECT OF THE REPORT BUT ALSO GREECE AND CYPRUS.

2. CELASUN THEN TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE SUBJECT "86 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH" OF FRUSTRATED GRANT AID AND ASKED IF IT WOULD BEGIN TO FLOW IMMEDIATELY UPON REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. CHIEF JUSMMAT SAID THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT THIS MATERIAL WOULD

MOVE WITH THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO BUT THAT BECAUSE OF PRICE CHANGES, ETC. THE "86 MILLION DOLLAR" FIGURE WAS NOT FIRM. AT CELASUN'S SPECIFIC REQUEST CHIEF JUSMMAT PROMISED TO TRY AND PROVIDE TGS WITH A LIST OF THE FRUSTRATED GRANT AID.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION CHIEF JUSMMAT ASKED IF THE BYRD AMENDMENT AS READ TO HIM WOULD CAUSE GREAT ANXIETY AND CELASUN SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WOULD NOT. ASKED IF THE IPEKCI ARTICLE IN THE TURKISH DAILY "MILLIYET", WHICH LABELED THE BYRD AMENDMENT AS WORSE THAN THE EMBARGO, REPRESENTED THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOT, CELASUN REPLIED EMPHATICALLY "NO".

4. COMMENT: TGS OBVIOUSLY HAD A POSSIBLY INACCURATE AND CERTAINLY INCOMPLETE IDEA OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT WHICH WE BELIEVE HAVE NOW BEEN PLACED IN A NEW PERSPECTIVE. CELASUN SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY DISCUSS WHAT CHIEF JUSMMAT HAD SAID WITH GENERAL EVREN (CHIEF TGS) AND ASKED FOR AND WAS PROVIDED A COPY OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT CHIEF JUSMMAT'S CONVERSATION WITH CELASUN WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF EVREN'S PARTICIPATION IN A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (JULY 27) WHICH HAS THE EMBARGO AS ONE OF ITS TWO TOPICS.
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